

8

# The American Social Hygiene Association

1914 - 1916

105 West 40th Street  
New York City  
1916

# The American Social Hygiene Association

105 West Fortieth Street, New York City

## HONORARY PRESIDENT

CHARLES W. ELIOT

## PRESIDENT

ABRAM W. HARRIS, Chicago, Ill.

## VICE-PRESIDENTS

### ACTIVE

DAVID STARR JORDAN  
WILLIAM T. FOSTER  
FELIX M. WARBURG  
WALTER T. SUMNER

### HONORARY

MISS JANE ADDAMS  
R. FULTON CUTTING  
JAMES CARDINAL GIBBONS,  
O. EDWARD JANNEY, M.D.

## TREASURER

HENRY L. HIGGINSON, Boston, Mass.

## SECRETARY

DONALD R. HOOKER, M.D., Baltimore, Md.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ABRAM W. HARRIS, Chairman

THOMAS M. BALLIET, New York	HENRY JAMES, JR., New York
HUGH CABOT, M.D., Boston	EDWARD L. KEYES, JR., M.D., New York
MRS. M. P. FALCONER, Darlington, Pa.	DELCEVARE KING, Boston
JEROME D. GREENE, New York	LAWRENCE LITCHFIELD, M.D., Pittsburgh
WILLIAM A. GREER, New York	THOMAS S. McLANE, New York
WIRT W. HALLAM, Chicago	JAMES BRONSON REYNOLDS, New York
ROBERT W. HEBBERD, Albany	MRS. RAYMOND ROBINS, Chicago
THOMAS N. HEPBURN, M.D., Hartford	EDWIN R. A. SELIGMAN, New York
MRS. CHRISTIAN A. HERTER, New York	WILLIAM F. SNOW, M.D., New York
DONALD R. HOOKER, M.D., Baltimore	MRS. A. G. SPENCER, Meadville, Pa.
EDWARD JACKSON, M.D., Denver	PERCY WERNER, St. Louis

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

JAMES BRONSON REYNOLDS  
Counsel

BASCOM JOHNSON  
Assistant Counsel

WILLIAM FREEMAN SNOW, M.D.

General Secretary  
JAMES H. FOSTER  
Assistant Secretary

## BRANCH OFFICES

### CENTRAL STATES DIVISION

WALTER CLARKE, Field Secretary, 1949 People's Gas Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

### WESTERN STATES DIVISION

THOMAS D. ELIOT, Field Secretary, 637 Phelan Building, San Francisco, Calif.

Purposes: "The purposes of this Association shall be to acquire and diffuse knowledge of the established principles and practices and of any new methods, which promote, or give assurance of promoting, social health; to advocate the highest standards of private and public morality; to suppress commercialized vice; to organize the defense of the community by every available means, educational, sanitary, or legislative, against the diseases of vice; to conduct on request inquiries into the present condition of prostitution and the venereal diseases in American towns and cities; and to secure mutual acquaintance and sympathy and coöperation among the local societies for these or similar purposes."

Membership: "Members of this Association shall be either individuals or societies." Individual members and their dues are grouped as follows: Founders, \$1,000 a year for three years or more; Patrons, \$500 a year for a year or more; Benefactors, \$250 a year for a year or more; Life members, \$100 a year for a year or more; Sustaining members, those who give \$10 a year during their membership; Members, those who give \$5 a year during their membership.

"Any society organized for or carrying out in whole or in part the general purposes specified in the constitution may be elected to membership in this Association upon payment of annual dues of not less than \$10, but shall preserve its autonomy and independence as a local organization."

# THE AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION

1914-1916

## *Membership and Organization*

The present membership of the Association is four hundred and eighty, representing thirty-three states and several foreign countries. The members elect annually a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and one-third of a board of directors of twenty-one. The directors serve three-year terms, meet quarterly, and elect annually, upon nomination by the president, an executive committee of seven of their number. To the executive committee is entrusted the appointment of the executive officers and the immediate supervision of all Association activities.

## *Purposes*

The articles of incorporation, as filed in March, 1914, state the purposes of the Association to be—"To acquire and diffuse knowledge of the established principles and practices and of any new methods, which promote or give assurance of promoting social health; to advocate the highest standards of private and public morality; to suppress commercialized vice; to organize the defense of the community by every available means, educational, sanitary, or legislative, against the diseases of vice; to conduct on request inquiries into the present condition of prostitution and the venereal diseases in American towns and cities; and to secure mutual acquaintance and sympathy and coöperation among the local societies for these or similar purposes."

## MEMBERSHIP BY STATES MARCH, 1916

Alabama .....	1
Arkansas .....	2
California .....	17
Colorado .....	4
Connecticut .....	16
Delaware .....	2
District of Columbia.....	10
Florida .....	1
Illinois .....	28
Indiana .....	3
Iowa .....	5
Kentucky .....	3
Louisiana .....	2
Maine .....	2
Maryland .....	22
Massachusetts .....	91
Michigan .....	5
Minnesota .....	3
Missouri .....	6
Nebraska .....	3
New Jersey .....	24
New Mexico .....	1
New York .....	149
Ohio .....	16
Oklahoma .....	1
Oregon .....	3
Pennsylvania .....	39
Rhode Island .....	2
Tennessee .....	1
Texas .....	1
Virginia .....	3
Washington .....	3
Wisconsin .....	4
Hawaii .....	2
Philippines .....	1
Foreign .....	4
Total .....	480

## METHODS OF PUBLICITY

Monthly news  
Bulletin

Quarterly magazine  
Social Hygiene

Special pamphlets

Exhibits

Local, state, and national meetings

Conference and convention addresses

Parent conferences

Lectures

Correspondence

Form letters

Reprints

Folders and leaflets

## PUBLICATIONS

Bulletin

6,000 every month

Social Hygiene

2,500 every three months

What Shall We Read?

Morals and Venereal Disease

Public Opinion and Sex Hygiene

The Injunction and Abatement  
Law

Prostitution and Mental Deficiency

Evening Clinics for Venereal  
Disease

Next Steps in Dealing with  
Prostitution

The Matter and Methods of Sex  
Education

The Opportunity of the Press as  
a Moral Educator

The Municipality and the Venereal  
Disease Problem

Commercialized Prostitution and  
the Liquor Traffic

And many other pamphlets and  
reprints

## *What is Social Hygiene?*

Social hygiene, as thus defined, is an inclusive phrase covering activities of which the campaigns against venereal diseases and prostitution are only a part, but necessarily at the present time the more generally recognized part. It may be expected that eventually the Association's work will be effectively correlated with other constructive efforts to promote those conditions of living, environment, and personal conduct which best protect the family as a social institution and secure to the individuals of each generation a rational sex life.

## *Spreading Information*

Through lectures and addresses, the work of the Association has been brought to the attention of some fifteen thousand persons during the past two years. Special correspondence has reached another eight thousand. The quarterly magazine, monthly bulletin, and selected sets of pamphlets have been received by thirty thousand. A special campaign placed a series of four letters and accompanying pamphlets before eleven thousand more. Exhibits have been demonstrated or otherwise presented in detail to one hundred thousand people, and interviews have been held with a large number of individuals and small groups. Thus it may be said that the purposes and activities of the organization have been directly presented to one hundred and seventy-five thousand people in the United States. Through references in newspapers, magazines, programs, and the casual viewing of exhibits, the existence of the Association has been called to the attention of a still larger number of persons.

In promoting this work, there have been

distributed three hundred and fifty thousand copies of regular publications, reprints, and similar printed matter, and in addition articles have been prepared by the officers and staff for medical and social welfare journals and other publications having a wide circulation. During the past two years, forty-five thousand letters (incoming and outgoing) have received attention, besides approximately sixty thousand form letters. A total of one hundred and twenty-seven visits have been made to eighty cities in twenty-five states.

### *Publications and Exhibits*

The first volume of the Association's quarterly magazine, *Social Hygiene*, containing 648 pages, numbered among the contributors of original articles some of the foremost educators, physicians, clergymen, and social workers in America. The monthly news *Bulletin* has been carried through two volumes averaging six thousand copies per month. Twenty-four special pamphlets have been circulated. A large exhibit for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, for which a gold medal was awarded, three ten-chart traveling exhibits, and six table exhibits have been maintained. One of the traveling exhibits is loaned to the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, and another used largely under the auspices of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

### *Library Activities*

A reference library of one thousand volumes has been assembled, and active co-operation has been established with public libraries and individuals through the preparation of special bibliographies and the loan of books and pamphlets.

### SOME CONTRIBUTORS TO PUBLICATIONS

- Charles S. Banks, M.D.,  
U. S. Public Health Service
- Maurice A. Bigelow,  
Teachers College, Columbia University
- Anna L. Brown, M.D.,  
National Board, Y. W. C. A.
- Charles W. Eliot,  
President Emeritus, Harvard University
- M. J. Exner, M.D.,  
International Committee, Y. M. C. A.
- Florence M. Fitch,  
Dean of Women, Oberlin College
- Abraham Flexner,  
General Education Board
- Lee K. Frankel,  
Sixth Vice-President, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
- G. Stanley Hall,  
President, Clark University
- Donald R. Hooker, M.D.,  
Johns Hopkins University
- Erie C. Hopwood,  
The Cleveland Plain Dealer
- Edward L. Keyes, Jr., M.D.,  
Cornell University Medical College
- Allan J. McLaughlin, M.D.,  
Massachusetts State Commissioner of Health
- Maude E. Miner  
Secretary, New York Protective and Probation Association
- Margaret Dreier Robins,  
President, National Women's Trade Union League
- John H. Stokes, M.D.,  
University of Illinois
- Frederick H. Whitin,  
Secretary, Committee of Fourteen, New York



## *\$1,000 Prize Awarded*

The Prize of \$1,000 provided by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for a social hygiene pamphlet for adolescents has been awarded to Dr. and Mrs. Donald B. Armstrong, of New York City. The judges selected to make the award were: Mrs. Martha P. Falconer, Superintendent, Sleighton Farms State Training School for Girls, Pennsylvania; Dr. Lee K. Frankel, Sixth Vice-President, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; Dr. Luther H. Gullick, President, the Camp Fire Girls of America; Dr. Milton J. Rosenau, Professor of Preventive Medicine and Hygiene, Harvard Medical School; Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, Dean, Department of Medicine and Surgery, University of Michigan.

### MEDICAL PROPAGANDA

Instruction pamphlets

Statistical studies

The evening pay clinic

The need for venereal disease dispensary service

Hospital treatment of syphilis and gonorrhea

Social service applied to venereal diseases

Free advice on venereal diseases and sex questions furnished by health departments to all applicants

Warfare on sex-specialist quacks  
Studies of—

The private practitioner and the venereal diseases

Venereal diseases and marriage laws

Making syphilis and gonococcus infections reportable

Through the coöperation of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company a \$1,000 prize has been offered for the best original pamphlet for adolescents. This is a good illustration of coöperation and of the Association's efforts to develop a satisfactory set of pamphlets for general educational purposes.

## *Venereal Diseases and Public Health*

The Association has promoted a practical program for dealing with venereal diseases as a community health problem, and has secured active discussion upon the subject before annual meetings of the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, the Pan-American Scientific Congress, the American Hospital Association, and other national scientific bodies. Both directly and indirectly assistance has been given in establishing dispensary, hospital, and health department facilities for syphilis and gonococcus infections. Twelve states and several cities now require the reporting of venereal diseases. Some fifty state and city laboratories offer free diagnostic examinations for syphilis and gonorrhea. Eight cities and one state offer free advice to persons who are or believe themselves to be victims of these diseases, and an increasing number of private dispensaries and hospitals are offering such advice. Studies of dispensary and hospital service in the United States are now being made jointly by the American Hospital Association, the American Public Health Association, and the American Social Hygiene Association to obtain authentic data on the prevalence and control of venereal diseases.

## ***Law Enforcement and Vice Investigations***

The Association has conducted or coöperated in vice investigations in the following states and cities: Maryland, Massachusetts, Wisconsin; Bridgeport, Conn.; Lancaster, Pa.; Lexington, Ky.; Newark, N. J.; Richmond, Va.; San Francisco, Cal.; and fourteen towns in Rockland County, N. Y.

Field investigations upon law enforcement have been made relative to the abatement and injunction laws in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, California, and the District of Columbia. Vice conditions in San Francisco in relation to the holding of the international exposition have been investigated and the reports effectively used for improving such conditions. The published and unpublished data obtained will be of great value in campaigns to prevent similar conditions arising in future exposition cities in the United States.

## ***Legislative Bureau***

Approximately 750 bills relating directly or indirectly to sex problems or sex offences, introduced in over thirty legislatures, have been carefully examined and constructive criticism forwarded to introducers and promoters of these measures, or to legislative committees.

Material aid has been given in drafting the essential bases for laws and ordinances. In one instance, because of its national importance, the Association successfully undertook to prove the effectiveness of an abatement and injunction law which was under appeal to the Supreme Court. This was the California law, as applicable to San Francisco conditions during the Exposition.

### **VICE INVESTIGATIONS. 1914-1915**

#### **States**

Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Wisconsin

#### **Cities**

Bridgeport, Conn.  
Lancaster, Penna.  
Lexington, Ky.  
Newark, N. J.  
Richmond, Va.  
San Francisco, Cal.  
Rockland County, N. Y.

### **LEGISLATIVE BUREAU**

Tentative drafts for needed legislation

Comparisons and digests of laws

White slave laws

Age-of-consent laws

Abatement and injunction laws

Venereal disease laws and ordinances

Other laws relating to social hygiene—

Marriage, sterilization, amusements

Reformatories, morals courts, and the like

## FIELD WORK

Western Division Office, San Francisco

Central States Division Office, Chicago

### Special field trips

Delegates to conferences such as—

National Conference of Charities and Correction

Southern Sociological Congress

Pan-American Scientific Congress

American Public Health Association

American Medical Association

American Hospital Association

Panama - Pacific Exposition Congresses

American Association for the Advancement of Science

Race Betterment Congress

Pan-American Medical Congress

American Association for the Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality

National Education Association

### Field trips by the Association's representatives

Alabama	Michigan
Arkansas	Minnesota
California	Missouri
Connecticut	Nebraska
Delaware	New Jersey
Florida	New York
Georgia	Ohio
Illinois	Oklahoma
Indiana	Oregon
Iowa	Pennsylvania
Kansas	Tennessee
Kentucky	Texas
Louisiana	Virginia
Maryland	Washington
Massachusetts	Wisconsin

A large advisory correspondence has been conducted with members and officials of vice commissions, committees, and law and order groups throughout the country.

## *National and International Meetings*

Officers or other representatives have been sent to all the important legal, educational, medical, and social welfare national meetings during the past two years. Social hygiene programs have been arranged for many of these meetings. A delegate was also sent in 1914 to England to the International Congress of Abolition of the State Regulation of Vice, who afterward visited Germany, France, and Belgium, in the interests of the Association.

The directors have kept constantly before them the fact that to justify the existence of the Association there must be a clear understanding of the purposes and need of the work undertaken; proof that no other organization is doing this work or better qualified to do it; and evidence that its activities are properly correlated with those of other agencies touching its field at any point. The early efforts have been directed toward the establishment of a clearing-house of sufficient standing and influence to obtain the ready coöperation of individual investigators and research bodies in furnishing information on unsettled questions, and to make this information readily available to the public through the Association's quarterly and other publications.

Necessarily much of the work and expenditures have been for purposes which can not as yet show definite results, but which may be confidently counted on to produce results in due time.



## ***The Story of the Association***

The American Social Hygiene Association, Inc., was formed by the union, which became legally effective in March, 1914, of the American Federation for Sex Hygiene and the American Vigilance Association. The Federation was organized in 1910, largely through the efforts of the late Dr. Prince A. Morrow, the founder of the New York Society of Sanitary and Moral Prophylaxis, the oldest social hygiene society in this country, and was designed as a national organization uniting state and local societies for sex education. The Vigilance Association had for its principal purpose the suppression of commercialized vice; it was formed in 1912 by the merging of the National Vigilance Committee, formed in 1906, and the American Purity Alliance, which was organized in 1886, but known until 1895 as the New York Committee for the Prevention of Vice. Among the men and women connected with this group of associations whose traditions and purposes descend to the present Association were Abby Hopper Gibbons and Aaron M. Powell, both presidents of the original Committee; Dr. Prince A. Morrow and Charles W. Eliot, presidents of the Federation; David Starr Jordan, president of the Vigilance Association; Dr. Emily Blackwell, Dr. O. Edward Janney, Grace H. Dodge, Cardinal Gibbons, Dr. R. N. Willson, Dr. Donald R. Hooker, Henry L. Higginson, Rt. Rev. William N. McVickar, Anna Garlin Spencer, Rt. Rev. Walter T. Sumner, William Lloyd Garrison, Dr. John H. Kellogg, Julia Ward Howe, Rev. Antoinette B. Blackwell, and others with like hopes and ideals.

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

- Promotion of International White Slave Treaty
- Representing in the United States the International Federation for the Suppression of the White Slave Trade
- Correspondence with foreign organizations for similar purposes
- Exchange with foreign countries of data on social hygiene problems and steps toward their solution

### **A NATIONAL CLEARING HOUSE FOR SOCIAL HYGIENE INTERESTS**

- Laws
- Statistics
- Opinions
- Bibliographies
- Lantern slides
- Motion pictures
- Reference library
- Exhibit material and suggestions
- Information about administrative experiments

A LETTER OF APPRECIATION

February 25, 1916.

It was most kind of you to respond so promptly and fully to my inquiry of February 23, and I thank you sincerely for so doing. The material furnished was precisely what I needed for the moment.

Just now, we shall let the affair rest on the editorials we have put out thus far—there will be another tomorrow, I believe. In case, however, it should be necessary to redouble efforts in support of the bill I may need your further coöperation.

Often I wonder whether the public realizes the sort of service that is done by organizations such as yours. To me it is brought home with great force at times like this. The public is the beneficiary of efforts of which it knows but too little. Your association and such other bodies as the American Association for Labor Legislation are the forces which are steadily reducing social aspiration to fact. It is a fine work, and I wish you continued success in it.

The work of these organizations was so closely related that their union was brought about in order to avoid duplication of effort in the same fields, and has resulted not only in economy of effort and expenditure, but in administrative efficiency, so that the American Social Hygiene Association has become generally known as the representative national organization dealing with the problems which constitute its field of activity.

## ***THE TASK OF SOCIAL HYGIENE***

The American Social Hygiene Association is engaged in promoting a nation-wide movement for the conservation of human life, efficiency, and morality. Sex education, the suppression of prostitution, and the reduction of venereal diseases are among its distinctive objects. The promotion of these objects brings the Association into constructive relations with other agencies in a campaign for wider knowledge, better homes, and better conditions for work and recreation.

The Association endeavors to cultivate sound thought and rational methods for the attainment of its ends, and thus to protect a vitally important movement from the obstruction to which it is peculiarly liable through immature thought and misguided activity.

From the beginning the supporters of the Association have realized that its national work must be undertaken with an adequate budget and with the necessary continuity of effort to insure success in combating impractical measures, in defeating the clever and well-financed agencies of commercialized vice and venereal disease quackery, and in arousing public opinion to the permanent support of necessary reforms and activities in the social hygiene field.

The Association utilizes as far as possible the coöperation of existing agencies, but its work is necessarily along new lines and in new fields. It has no source of income other than voluntary contributions. To prosecute its activities and to develop new work, a large and permanent income must be assured.

Membership in the Association is open to those who give approval to its purposes and methods, and wish to share in the support of its work.

The work which the American Social Hygiene Association has set out to do is varied in character and interwoven with the social hygiene activities of other organizations, but planned to meet a need not covered by any other social agency. The Association, apart from its own direct efforts, works through other existing agencies wherever possible. Economy and efficiency, as well as stability, are best secured by enlisting in the work organizations well established in public confidence and respect.

Where work has been begun by a state or local social hygiene society or other local organization, it is the policy of the Association to aid its development into a strong working body to which the national organization can give support and encouragement. Where new forces have to be developed, the selection of a social hygiene committee under the advisory direction of the national Association, or of one of the active societies, is advocated.

In general, the following plan for establishing new local agencies has been approved. A survey of local conditions is first made, and supplemented by conferences with persons selected for their interest in the social hygiene movement or their connection with public or volunteer organizations. The formation of a committee and outlining of a plan of work is then taken up, and an effort is made through coöperation between the committee and the national association to stimulate active local work by a permanent self-supporting organization under safe leadership, with the ultimate aim of having social hygiene adequately provided for through the fullest coöperation of public agencies with civic and individual effort.